



# Joint Declaration of Economic and Cultural Cooperation

Republic of Ghana and State of Michigan

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WHEREAS, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana, and John Engler, Governor of the State of Michigan, have engaged in productive discussions during the President's visit to the State of Michigan, United States of America, on October 31, 1995; and

WHEREAS, many of the citizens of Michigan look to the Republic of Ghana for the roots of their ethnic heritage; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of stimulating economic growth and creating jobs for their citizens are of the highest concern to both the President and the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the President and the Governor have joined together to promote the African World Expo, the world's largest African-North American trade and investment conference and exposition, to be held in the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, on November 2 through 5, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the President and the Governor wish to memorialize this October 31, 1995 discussions and execute this Joint Declaration of Economic and Cultural Cooperation.

NOW, THEREFOR, THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNOR HEREBY PRESENT THIS JOINT DECLARATION:

1. The President and the Governor encourage the peoples of the Republic of Ghana and of the State of Michigan to continue the development of cultural and economic ties.
2. The President and the Governor encourage Ghanaian and Michigan businesses to participate in the African Trade Expo to be held in the City of Detroit from November 2-5, 1995, and in a similar trade exposition to be held at the Trade Fair Site in Accra, Ghana. The primary focus of these trade events is to promote trade, investment,


and strategic alliances between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and North America.


3. The President and the Governor encourage Ghanaian and Michigan businesses to work together, through their respective economic development agencies, to identify and facilitate opportunities for the trade of goods and services between the Republic of Ghana and the State of Michigan, and to establish joint ventures aimed at upgrading the infrastructure of the Republic of Ghana.
4. The President and the Governor recognize the importance of the Ghanaian Self Help Electrification program ("Electrification Program") as an essential element of the Republic of Ghana's economic growth. For this reason, the Governor encourages Michigan government regulatory agencies, and Michigan-based electric cooperatives and private power generation companies, to support power sector development in the Republic of Ghana where the talent, experience and capital of Michigan-based entities can contribute to both the economic success of the Republic of Ghana and of the State of Michigan. Specifically, in light of the Republic of Ghana's pathbreaking initiatives in the Electrification Program, the Governor acknowledges and encourages the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association to explore avenues to provide technical assistance to promote modern and productive uses of electricity in the Republic of Ghana. Furthermore, in response to the President's invitation to independent power producers to participate in alleviating electricity supply constraints in the Republic of Ghana, the Governor acknowledges and encourages CMS Generation, a Michigan-based company, to explore investment and joint venture opportunities in the Republic of Ghana's power sector.
5. Recognizing the importance of timber and wood products, as valuable renewable resources, in the economic growth of both the Republic of

Ghana and the State of Michigan, the President and the Governor encourage the development of business enterprises and trade ties aimed at stimulating the growth of the timber and wood industry in the Republic of Ghana, and at creating value-added wood products for both the Republic of Ghana and the State of Michigan's important wood products industries.

6. Recognizing the importance of global telecommunications and financial services businesses to economic growth of both the Republic of Ghana and the State of Michigan, the President and the Governor encourage their telecommunications providers, banks, and other financial services institutions and businesses to identify and develop trade and investment opportunities aimed at strengthening the ties between the State of Michigan and the Republic of Ghana.

EXECUTED THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1995 IN THE CITY OF DEARBORN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

  
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President of the Republic of Ghana

  
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Governor of the State of Michigan